

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 CIAE-00 /060 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6113

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1010

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PFOR, RH, SF, WA, UK, ET, SO, NI

SUBJECT: OWEN-GARBA MEETING IN LONDON

1. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION MINISTER JOHN WILLIAMS TODAY READ CABLE TO POLCOUNS DESCRIBING GARBA MEETING WITH OWEN IN LONDON WHERE GARBA STOPPED ENROUTE TO NEW YORK AND JAMAICA FOR MEETING WITH NIGERIAN AMBASSADORS STATIONED IN AMERICAS.

2. ACCORDING TO CABLE, WHICH WAS DRAFTED BY OWEN, GARBA INFORMED BRITISH THAT MUGABE AND NKOMO WOULD VISIT LAGOS JANUARY 26-27 BEFORE MALTA MEETING. WHEN OWEN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO WOULD TAKE OUT TIME TO MEET THEM AND IMPRESS ON THEM THE NECESSITY OF BEING REASONABLE, GARBA GAVE ASSURANCES HE WOULD.

3. GARBA ASKED OWEN WHETHER BRITISH WOULD RECOGNIZE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IN ZIMBABWE IF ONE WERE FORTHCOMING. OWEN ANSWERED 'NOT AT THIS STAGE' (WHICH HE CALLED A 'FREUDIAN SLIP' IN HIS CABLE) AND QUICKLY WENT ON TO SAY THE BRITISH WOULD WELCOME ANY SOLUTION SO LONG AS IT INCLUDED ALL INVOLVED PARTIES.

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4. GARBA ASKED WHO WOULD BE PRESENT AT THE MALTA MEETINGS AND ASKED WHETHER NIGERIA COULD SEND AN OBSERVER. HE WAS TOLD BY OWEN THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL BUT HE (OWEN) DID NOT SEE HOW THEY COULD SINGLE OUT ANY ONE COUNTRY TO BE AN OBSERVER.

5. OWEN TRIED TO ENLIST THE NIGERIANS TO SPEAK OUT ON HORN ISSUE BUT GARBA SAID THAT AS MEDIATORS THEY COULD NOT TAKE SIDES. GARBA SAID, HOWEVER, THAT UPON HIS RETURN FROM NEW YORK, WHICH HE EXPECTED TO BE ABOUT JANUARY 31, AND BEFORE OAU MEETING IN THIRD WEEK OF FEBRUARY, HE PLANNED TO VISIT BOTH MODADISCIO AND ADDIS ABABA.

6. WILLIAMS OBSERVED THAT BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER SIR SAM FALLE HAD BEEN SUMMONED YESTERDAY TO MEA BY AFRICA DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR AKADIRI, WHO ASKED THREE QUESTIONS ON RHODESIA:

- A) WHAT ARE DATES OF MALTA TALKS;
- B) WHAT IS ATTITUDE OF BRITISH TOWARD INTERNAL SETTLEMENT;
- C) HOW DOES UK INTEND TO GET RID OF SMITH.

SIR SAM, IN ANSWER TO SECOND QUESTION USED ONLY SECOND PART OF OWENS ANSWER TO GARBA. IN ANSWER TO THIRD QUESTION, HE SAID THE BRITISH WANTED TO GET ALL PARTIES TO AGREE, THUS ISOLATING SMITH AND FORCING HIM TO LEAVE.  
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